

## Public Schools - Provision of Menstrual Hygiene Products

Sponsored by Delegate Kirill Reznik & Senator Sarah Elfreth

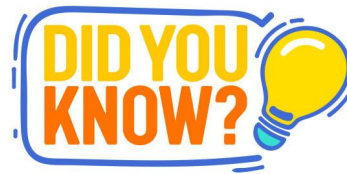
**Period Poverty** is the inability to access menstrual hygiene products. This, and the related issue of menstrual stigma, are barriers to education for many Maryland students.



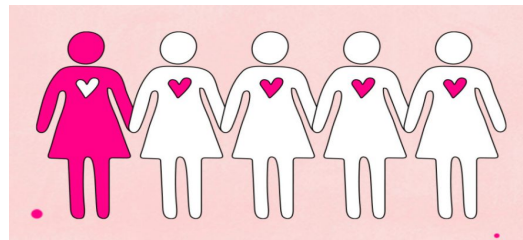
1 in 5 teens

in the US have struggled to afford period products or were not able to purchase them at all.

According to a study done by THINX and PERIOD, "State of the Period."

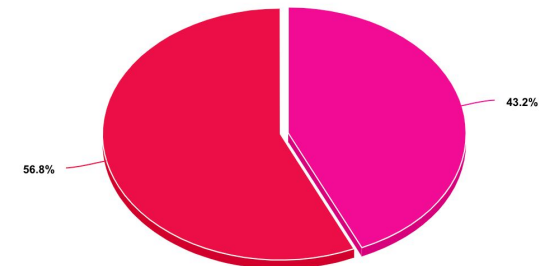


- **12 years old** is the average age of menarche (first period)
- **30-50% of girls** get their period *before* this age
- **Hispanic and African American girls** menstruate before their white counterparts.
- **1 of 5** low-income women report missing school or work due to lack of access to period hygiene products



According to a 2018 Kotex Survey

In 2019, **43.2%** of Maryland public school students enrolled for free and reduced-price meals, indicating that their families **struggled to afford basic necessities**. Many students are of menstruating age.



Receiving Free/Reduced Cost Meals NOT Receiving Free/Reduced Cost Meals

\*This statistic only represents families who turned in their school meal benefit application; the true figures may differ

## Our Goals



HB0205/SB0427

has been introduced into the Assembly to **require**

**Maryland public schools** to provide free, size appropriate **maxi-pads and tampons, in at least one restroom in each primary school and two restrooms in each secondary school by October 1st, 2021, and most restrooms by August 2025.**



- **Increase** school attendance
- **Increase** extracurricular participation
- **Decrease** peer harassment




## Why this legislation is essential:


★ A recent New York study revealed that school attendance increased when students were provided with free menstrual hygiene products. Increased school attendance further allows female **students to succeed** in their **academic and extracurricular goals.**

★ Because period poverty **disproportionately impacts students of color from low-income families**, free menstrual hygiene products will help **bridge gaps in academic opportunities.**

★ Female students will be **better supported** in their education when they aren't worried about their period!

## How you can support us:

: [ihaveastory@prochoicemd.org](mailto:ihaveastory@prochoicemd.org)  
Share your story!

: @prochoicemd  
Keep up with our efforts!

**zoom**: register for and join our virtual event on **Wednesday, January 13th, 2021 @ 3:30 PM:**  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom-join?secret=9876543210>

Contact your legislators and express the importance of passing this bill. Not sure who those are? →  
<https://maryland.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=177afa87a67746a4ac5496b2d0897fb7>

For more information, contact Diana Philip at → [diana@prochoicemd.org](mailto:diana@prochoicemd.org)

Menstrual Equity  
Alliance for  
Maryland Students

